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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION OCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADS-00 SSO-00 /023 W
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O 091445Z JAN 81
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1893

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 0178

E.O. 12065: NA
TAGS: CASC ASEC PINS PINT ES
SUBJ: W/W AMCIT JOHN J. SULLIVAN
REF STATE 04330 AND STATE 04341

1. POST IS OF THE OPINION THAT INTERVENTION BY INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS IS NOT APPROPRIATE. LOCAL SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN FURNISHED PHYSCIAL DISCRIPTIGN AS CONTAINED IN REFTEL AND IN PHOTOS SENT VIA UPI AND A.P. POLICE OFFICIALS HAVE SHOWN FULL COOPERATION NOW AS IN THE PAST REGARDING DETENTION OF U.S. CITIZENS. AN ALL POINT COUNTRY-WIDE ALERT HAS BEEN PUT OUT AND THE DISAPPEARANCE HAS BEEN GIVEN FULL COVERAGE BY LOCAL PRESS.

2. POST NOW BELIEVES THAT SULLIVAN ARRIVED AND CHECKED INTO THE SHERATON AT 6 P.M. ON DECEMBER 12, 1980. HE APPARENTLY RESTED AWHILE AND THEN WENT OUT FOR THE EVENING. HE NEVER RETURNED. ALL HIS EFFECTS, INCLUDING COMB, TOOTHBRUSH, REPORTING EQUIPMENT ETC., WERE LEFT IN HIS ROOM. HE WAS EVIDENTLY CARRYING ONLY HIS BILLFOLD AND PASSPORT. CONSULAR OFFICER AND PAO INSPECTED EFFECTS AND INTERVIEWED HOTEL EMPLOYEES. BASED ON EVIDENCE, SULLIVAN CHANGED HIS CLOTHES AND LEFT THE HOTEL AFTER 7 P.M. DRESSED IN A DARK BROWN SUIT. INTERVIEW WITH TAXI DRIVERS AND HOTEL SECURITY GUARDS HAVE REVEALED NO FURTHER CLUES. SULLIVAN MADE NO PHONE CALLS FROM HIS HOTEL ROOM. CAR RENTAL AGENCY INQUIRIES WERE NEGATIVE.

3. BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED IN REFTEL ABOUT POLITICAL INVESTIGATIVE PIECE FOR HUSTLER MAGAZINE, POST BELIEVES THAT EITHER SULLIVAN HAS MET AN ILL FATE WITH EXTREME RIGHT OR EXTREME LEFT FORCES, OR ELSE, HE IS IN HIDING FOR UNKNOWN REASONS.

DION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY MAR 1 5 1984 DATE
RDS☐or XD☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

CONSULAR AFFAIRS
1981 JAN -9 PM 3:39

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